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**JUL 15 2004**

**OFFICIAL**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: )  
 )  
**Trautman, et al.** )  
 )  
**FOR: APPARATUS AND METHOD** )  
 **FOR PIERCING SKIN WITH** )  
 **MICROPROTRUSIONS** )  
 )  
**SERIAL NO: 09/976,798** )  
 )  
**FILED: October 12, 2001** )  
 )  
**ART UNIT NO: 3763** )  
 )  
**EXAMINER: Thompson, Kathryn L.** )  
 )  
**DOCKET NO: ARC 3043 R1** )

**AMENDMENT A**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are made in response to the Office communication, dated February 17, 2004. Please amend the application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Drawings** begins on page 4 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.